

TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm. Selectmen present were James McIlroy, Janet Smith, and Roberta Gerkin. Others present were Jeff Buxton, Sam Taylor, and Fran Lane.

Jeff Buxton (Fire Chief) advised the Selectmen that five people need re-certification at a cost of \$1,200.00.

A Grant was received for radios - \$2,500.00 to get \$42,000.00 worth of radios and communications equipment.

A Grant is being applied for to replace gear which is five to seven years old.

The Fire Department would like to get the money back into the budget.

James made a motion to accept the Radio Recipient Grant. Janet seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Sam Taylor came in with the new proposal for the changes to the Town Hall to comply with ADA.

James made a motion to accept the bid for \$7,568.40 for Town Hall ADA Compliance. Janet seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Sam will invoice the Town for fifty percent of his bid and order the materials. The job should be completed by voting day, March 14th.

Fran Lane was in to update the Selectmen on the Les Case situation. The judge denied the current motion and a guardian has not been assigned.

Regarding the Greenway and the Haughton Easement. There are still some items outstanding, but progress has been made.

There was a public discussion on mosquito control. Janet will write a Warrant Article and seek a second bid for mosquito control.

James made a motion to sign the lien release from 1969 on Bertha S. Libby. Janet seconded the motion and all were in favor.

It was requested that the voting hours be expanded to 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. Janet made a motion to change the hours to 8:00 am to 7:00 pm. James seconded the motion and all were in favor.

James, Janet, and Roberta signed the Timber Tax Levy and the Town Hall Rental Agreement.

The Board was notified that Betsy Coes has resigned from the Planning Board. We are now looking for one member to replace Betsy and one alternate member.

James made a motion to appoint Steve Shope as an alternate on the Conservation Committee. Janet seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Selectmen have chosen to not read aloud the Red Cross Proclamation at the Town Meeting.

The Selectmen reviewed the letter with the Emergency Management list of contact information. Some updates were made to the contact list.

The letter from DES, Hazardous Mitigation will be forwarded to Tom Connor, of the Emergency Management Department.

The Selectmen reviewed the letter from the Rockingham Planning Commission regarding the availability of Grant Funds. The letter was also sent to the Planning Board and Conservation Committee. The Selectmen request that the information be carefully reviewed and the information utilized.

James made a motion to accept the Minutes of the January 3, 2006 meeting as amended. Janet seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Selectmen reviewed the insurance quote from the Perkins Agency.

The Selectmen reviewed the letter from the NH Estuaries project offering consulting grants. The request was made to forward the letter to the Conservation Committee, the Planning Board, and Reuben Hull.

James made a motion to remove the Elderly Exemption from the old business section of the Agenda. There will not be a Warrant Article this year. Janet seconded the motion. The motion passed with two votes for and one Selectmen abstaining.

Checks were signed.

The Police Budget was discussed. The comment made at the Budget Hearing was discussed regarding the Police Log and the request that the information be published on the Town Web Site.

Janet discussed her research with the Board with regards to residents request to find out how many other towns like Newfields have 4 full time police, including chiefs.

Based on current 2005 LGC compilations of the 234 cities and towns in NH, 33 towns fall into Newfields comparable population range. Just more than ½ of those towns have a full time chief and of those towns that have a full time chief, the majority of towns have 2 or 3 full time officers and 3 or 4 part time officers. Out of those 33 towns only 1 town currently has 1 chief and 3 full time officers. James asked Janet to look into hours covered by those towns. Janet also pointed out the according to the LGC 2005 book, Newfields has one of the largest Police Department Budgets. James reminded the Board that the Police Department Budget will go down by \$10,000 in 2007 as those funds will be put into a revolving fund.

During the next six months the Selectmen, in collaboration with the Police Chief, will benchmark the services and budgets of police departments in surrounding counties with town populations of 1,000 to 3,000.

At 10:15 pm Roberta made a motion to adjourn. James seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer